

**PAXTANG BOROUGH  
Workshop Meeting  
3423 Derry Street  
May 4, 2021**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Council President	Kathleen Bloss
Council Vice President	Christopher Spackman
Council President Pro-Tempore	Jack Thomas – <b>Absent</b>
Mayor	Sheilah Borne Fuller – <b>Absent</b>
Joshua Eisner	
David Gui	
Nathan Martin	
Thomas Wingert – <b>Absent</b>	

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Borough Manager	Keldeen Stambaugh
Borough Solicitor	Joshua Bonn attended in the absence of J. Stephen Feinour
Borough Fire Chief	Will Skinner

President Bloss welcomed all in attendance. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, guidelines set by the Center for Disease Controls for social distancing and wearing of masks were being observed. President Bloss opened the floor for members of the audience to share comments.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**Mr. Albert Buchenauer of 524 Park Terrace** voiced the following concerns: use of a fire pit on a daily basis by a resident on Park Terrace causing excessive dense smoke to infiltrate into his home, resident burning more than wood with remnants and embers ending up in the yards of surrounding properties, hard to breath while outside or inside home due to smoke, excessive dirt and unpleasant odors emanating from the fire pit, cannot open windows or doors due to smoke, and at times fire pit is left unattended. Mr. Buchenauer proposed Council draft a policy and go to a smoke free fire pit community. Mr. Buchenauer stated he has called the Swatara Township Police about this issue. Mr. Buchenauer requested Council members visit the area when resident is using their fire pit. Mr. Buchenauer also presented concerns with vehicular parking, dogs off of leash on Park Terrace, and requested enforcement on matters as brought forth.

**Mr. Kenneth Graves of 527 Park Terrace** stated he has experienced the same issues with regard to excessive smoke from a neighboring fire pit, said this is a nuisance, is an on going issue, and would like matters addressed. Mr. Graves stated while he would like to enjoy his home, but cannot due to excessive smoke from a neighboring fire pit.

**Mr. Earl Fox of 523 Park Terrace** stated resident uses a fire pit excessively, burns cardboard boxes, leaves fire burning unattended over night, and was led to believe his house was on fire after being awoken by the smell of dense smoke that had permeated his home.

President Bloss thanked those that presented commentary. Hearing no further comments from members in attendance, President Bloss proceeded with the meeting.

**REPORT OF THE MANAGER**

No Report from Manager Stambaugh

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Public Relations* – Councilman Martin reported nominations for Hometown Heroes has been extended to May 15, 2021. Topic was discussed at the March 16, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

*Highway* – No Report due to the absence of Councilman Wingert

*Health and Sanitation* – No Report due to the absence of Councilman Thomas

*Property and Recreation* – Vice-President Spackman presented a request from Mr. Martin Romain, Borough resident and Pastor of the Crossroads Christian Ministries asking for gratis use of the pavilion at Saussaman Park to conduct Sunday services for the months of May, June, July, August, and September. Vice President Spackman made a recommendation to offer gratis use for two Sundays out of each month. To be addressed at the May 19 Regular Business Meeting.

*Administration* – No Report from Councilman Eisner

*Public Safety* – Councilman Gui presented for Council fire service proposals from Swatara Township, Harrisburg City, and Susquehanna Township. Councilman Gui stated volunteer fire companies are realizing challenges in maintaining memberships. As a result, Council had an interest in what other municipalities might have to offer Paxtang Borough in the way of fire services. Council would not be obligated to go with any of the proposals as presented. If Council believed service as provided by the Paxtang Fire Company is sufficient, the current status would be maintained. Questions and concerns can be directed to Councilman Gui. To be addressed at the May 19 Regular Business Meeting.

Councilman Eisner said he reviewed the proposals and if memberships in general are decreasing, thought Council might not want to entertain another volunteer fire service for coverage. Councilman Eisner stated Borough calls are being addressed, the response rate for Paxtang is in the low 90 percentile, and at this point does not see this to be an issue. Councilman Eisner suggested this matter be discussed further.

Councilman Martin stated while this issue had been discussed for some time, it showed no reflection on members of the Paxtang Fire Department or Fire Police. Consistent coverage to Borough residents has been extended by these volunteers. Concerns would be for response time, availability of members, and budget wise, would the Borough be able to fund its own fire service.

## **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR**

### **BOROUGH WIDE SIDEWALK INSPECTION OF 2018**

Solicitor Joshua Bonn presented information regarding options of pursuing a Civil procedure and or a Summary procedure with regard to property owners that have not repaired their sidewalks from the 2018 Borough wide Sidewalk Inspection. Council could pursue both procedures at the same time with limits falling under each procedure. In order to pursue either of the 2 procedures, a written notice would need to be sent stating the following: directing the repair of the sidewalk, mention repairs would be made 60 days from the notice to bring the sidewalk into compliance, if not repaired within the 60 day notice, the Borough could repair the sidewalk at the expense of the Borough, bill the cost, and possibly place a municipal lien on the property. A Summary procedure could also be entered into and at the discretion of the Magisterial District Judge, a fine could be set up to \$1,000.00.

If the Borough would only pursue a Summary Citation, a lien could not be placed on the property if the fine was not paid. One could just pay a fine and not repair the sidewalk with proceedings on going for a lengthy period of time. There are also costs incurred through utilizing a Codes Enforcement Officer.

The preference from Solicitor Bonn would be to issue a letter stating if repairs are not made within 60 days, the Borough could pursue a Civil proceeding, repair the sidewalk, bill costs incurred, and possibly issue a Summary Citation. Solicitor Bonn suggested it might be wise to invest costs accrued through a Summary procedure into repairing the sidewalk and then attempt to collect costs relating to the repairs made by the Borough.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

President Bloss opened the floor for members of the audience to share comments. No comments were brought forth.

**RESCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Due to Election Day being held on Tuesday, May 18, the Regular Business Meeting for May would be held on Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal gymnasium. Due to Election Day being held on Tuesday, November 2, the November Workshop meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 3. Information has been posted to the Borough website at [www.paxtang.org](http://www.paxtang.org). Rescheduled meetings have been advertised as well.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

President Bloss adjourned the Workshop Meeting for May 4, 2021 at 7:40 p.m.

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Secretary